

Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (canceled)

2. (previously amended) The marinating machine of claim 14 and further comprising at least one wheel on said first axle, said wheel fixed for rotation with said first axle, said at least one wheel having an outer surface contactable by said drum for rotating said drum.

3. (currently amended) A marinating machine having a motor, a first axle having a first axis of rotation, a second axle having a second axis of rotation, said first axis parallel to said second axis and spaced therefrom, a drum having a third axis of rotation, said drum rotatably supported by said first axle and said second axle, the improvement wherein

said first and said third axis define a first plane,

said second and said third axis define a second plane,

said first plane and said second plane intersecting at an angle of least one hundred twenty degrees, and

said marinating machine further comprises

a drive assembly between said motor and said first axle for drivingly rotating only said first axle with power from said motor,

said first axle rotated in a direction wherein said rotation will apply an upward component of force to said drum,

said drum having a cylindrical inner surface,

a first paddle assembly having at least two first paddles, each of said at least two first paddles having a first width,

a second paddle assembly having at least two second paddles, each of said at least two second paddles having a second width,

said first width different from said second width, and

means for removably retaining one of said first paddle assembly and said second paddle assembly in said drum.

4. (original) The marinating machine of claim 3 and further comprising at least one wheel on said first axle, said wheel fixed for rotation with said first axle, said at least one wheel having an outer surface contactable by said drum for rotating said drum.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The marinating machine of claim 3 wherein,
said cylindrical inner surface has a given diameter,
said first paddle assembly comprises two paddles each of which has an outer end,
and said marinating machine further comprises

means for compressibly retaining said outer ends of said first paddles a distance apart that is greater than said given diameter.

7. (previously amended) A marinating machine comprising
a drum having a cylindrical inner surface,
a first paddle assembly having at least two first paddles, each of said at least two first paddles having a broad surface defining a plane and having a first width,
a second paddle assembly having at least two second paddles,
each of said at least two second paddles of said second paddle assembly having a broad surface defining a plane and having a second width,
said first width different from said second width, and
means for removably retaining one of said first and said second paddle assembly in said drum with an outer end of each of said at least two second paddles adjacent said cylindrical inner surface and said broad surfaces oriented generally perpendicular to said adjacent cylindrical inner surface.

8. (previously amended) The marinating machine of claim 7 wherein said first paddle assembly has a first paddle with a first outer end and a second paddle with a second outer end and said means for removably retaining said first paddle assembly comprises means for urging said first outer end and said second outer end away from one another.

9. (previously amended) The marinating machine of claim 7 wherein said first paddle assembly comprises

a first paddle having a length, said first width and a thickness,
said first paddle having a hole therein,
said hole perpendicular to said length and parallel to said plane defined by said first paddle, and
a compressible member fitted into said hole.

10. (original) The marinating machine of claim 9 wherein said compressible member is a partially flexible rod with a memory causing said rod to return to an at rest orientation.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (withdrawn) The method of attaching a wheel to a shaft for rotation therewith wherein said wheel has an axial bore of a given diameter, said axial bore having a longitudinal axis and an inner wall, said shaft having a diameter substantially equal in diameter to said given diameter, said method comprising
providing a second bore in said wheel, said second bore having a second longitudinal axis that is not parallel to said longitudinal axis of said axial bore and is

spaced from said longitudinal axis of said axial bore, said second bore having an inner wall that intersects said inner wall of said axial bore,

providing threadings in said inner wall of said second bore,

providing a stud having a threading complementary to said threading in said inner wall of said second bore, and

screwing said stud into said threads of said second bore until said threads of said stud engage said outer surface of said shaft.

14. (currently amended) A marinating machine having a first axle having a first axis of rotation, a second axle having a second axis of rotation, said first axis parallel to said second axis and spaced therefrom, a motor, a drum having a third axis of rotation, said drum rotatably supported by said first axle and said second axle, said drum having a plurality of paddles therein for agitating food products within said drum, the improvement comprising

a drive assembly between said motor and said first axle for drivingly rotating only said first axle with power from said motor,

said first axle rotating in a direction wherein said rotation will apply an upward component of force to a surface of said drum,

said first and said third axis defining a first plane,

said second and said third axis defining a second plane, and

said first plane and said second plane intersecting at an angle of at least one hundred twenty-degrees, and

a vacuum line connected to said drum for drawing a vacuum therein.

15. (previously added) The marinating machine of claim 14 wherein said angle of intersection between said first plane and said second plane is no more than one hundred forty degrees.

16. (previously added) The marinating machine of claim 3 wherein said angle of intersection between said first plane and said second plane is no more than one hundred forty degrees.

17. (new) The improvements of claim 14 and further comprising said plurality of paddles being removable from said drum without requiring the use of tools.